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INSIDE



'Shobai' Concerns

Government agencies and the local hotel association have agreed to work together and lobby the Legislature to address once and for all mounting concerns by hoteliers on the intimidation of tourists by beach concessionaires and illegal vendors or "shobais."

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Finally!

A boost in gasoline production and a dip in oil prices have led to the first nationwide drop this year in gas prices at the pump, an industry analyst said Sunday.

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Skydive

Former President George H.W. Bush celebrated his 80th birthday with a 13,000-foot parachute jump over his presidential library Sunday, and said he felt the same thrill of prior jumps even though his hopes of skydiving solo were dashed.

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Water firm raises prices

High fuel, freight costs cited as reasons behind increase

By JOHN RAVELO
REPORTER

The series of increases in fuel prices have taken their toll in the CNMI's bottled water industry, with Saipan Ice disclosing that it would adjust the prices of its products beginning today.

The company's vice-president, Ador Songcuan, said the company needs to increase its prices to survive.

"We cannot afford high fuel costs," said Songcuan, who is also the company's general manager and comptroller. "We have to do it as soon as possible."

Songcuan said the company would

...as CUC also mulls electricity rate hike

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is currently studying a fuel adjustment charge for its electricity rates.

CUC acting comptroller Ed Williams said this even as he reported to the CUC board Thursday that CUC's budget for

fuel will overshoot by \$7 to \$8 million this year due to increases in fuel price.

CUC had budgeted \$31 million for fuel expenses for fiscal year 2004.

Earlier, Williams projected \$35 million to \$36 million in expenditures for fuel, or about \$5 million above its budget. But last week, he said he has revised his projection upward to the range

of \$38 million to \$39 million.

"This large difference cannot be set-off entirely by reprogramming funds within the budget," said Williams.

As a result, the utility firm is now looking at the possible implementation of rate adjustments.

"I'm requested that I gather infor-

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adjust the retail store price of 5-gallon bottled water from \$1 to \$2 beginning today. He said the company would also adjust prices of its products for delivery

orders to up to \$3 possibly this week, higher than the previous overall average price of \$1.55.

"At stake here is our business. If Mo-

bil and Shell can increase [fuel prices] almost every week, water remains to be a necessity," Songcuan said. "Hopefully,

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SHAN SEMAN

The remaining crew members of the *Enola Gay*, take part in activities commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Battles of Saipan and Tinian. Left picture shows weaponeer Morris R. Jeppson, left, and navigator Theodore Van Kirk during a donation ceremony at the CNMI Museum of History and Culture. Right picture shows *Enola Gay* pilot Gen. Paul W. Tibbets speaking before delegates to the Veterans of Foreign Wars-Department of Pacific Areas 38th Annual Convention at the Dai-ichi Hotel Saipan Beach.

Enola Gay crew arrives for 60th anniversary

By SHAN SEMAN
REPORTER

Events commemorating the 60th anniversary of World War II Battles of Saipan and Tinian hit high gear yesterday with the remaining crew of B-29 bomber *Enola Gay* arriving to grace the occasion with their presence.

The crew, comprising pilot Gen. Paul W. Tibbets, weaponeer Morris R. Jeppson, and navigator Theodore Van Kirk, arrived with family members Sunday night to a warm welcome.

With music from the '40s in the background and cameras flashing before their eyes, the WWII celebrities walked from the arrival gate to the baggage claim

area and out, to be greeted by numerous individuals who want a glimpse at their World War II heroes.

"I am amazed at the changes," said Van Kirk. "Before it was just a big mass of war machinery and thousands of planes sitting around on the various field, and now it's built into a very beautiful

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Fund: Extend HPMR contract to Feb. 2005

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund Board has moved to extend the contract of its third-party administrator, Hawaii Pacific Medical Referral, up to February 2005.

Fund administrator Karl T. Reyes said the board had asked HPMR to continue to provide its services until the agency has fully privatized its Group Health and Life Insurance program.

Reyes said the full privatization shall take place by March 1.



Reyes

"During the transition period, we need somebody to take care of the services. It means HPMR's services [will be retained] up to February 2005," said Reyes.

Reyes said, though, that following legal advice, the Fund and HPMR would have to revise the contract altogether since it exceeds six months. This would mean introduction of some changes to the existing contract.

"Extending that long—over six months—is considered a new contract. If that's the case, then we have to do some revisions," said Reyes.

He said the revision of contract shall take place before the July 31 expiration

See FUND on Page 12

Local

Fitial favors power plant expansion

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

The House leadership favors the expansion of the Puerto Rico power plant and its relocation to Lower Base.

In a June 9, 2004 letter to CUC board chair Herman P. Sablan, House Speaker Benigno R. Fitia1 called on the utility firm to consider a recent proposal made by the plant’s operator, Pacific Marine & Industrial Corp.

“I understand that PMIC has successfully assisted CUC with power generation in the past and

that it now offers to further assist CUC in view of the power outages we have been experiencing,” he said.

“I am in favor of PMIC’s idea of increasing CUC’s power capacity through the use of its state-of-the-art, highly fuel-efficient generators that would save millions in petroleum costs,” he said.

Incidentally, Fitia1 said he favors the relocation of the Puerto Rico power plant to Lower Base “to ease the concerns of some of my constituents in Precinct III.”

Fitia1 said other members of the House leadership and himself

look forward to a more reliable power generation for the islands.

He said the leadership is particularly encouraged by PMIC’s proposal, especially since CUC would not be required to spend on capital costs.

On June 8, PMIC senior development manager Stephen Green wrote Fitia1, CUC, and other key government officials about PMIC’s plan to increase its power capacity at no additional cost to CUC.

To do this, he said that the CUC-PMIC contract needs to be amended.

“In light of the current supply difficulties...we feel it may be timely and appropriate to revisit the proposals for improvement of the electricity supply services that we have placed before you,” Green said.

PMIC reportedly supplies CUC up to 15 MW of power daily.

In his letter, Green said that PMIC is “delivering capacity well in excess of our contractual obligations.”

Part of the PMIC’s proposal is to relocate its plant to Lower Base and to increase its capacity by installing “brand new,

state-of-the-art, high fuel efficiency generators.”

He said the relocation would address Puerto Rico residents’ concerns about noise and air pollution. Further, PMIC said it is willing to install addi-

tional capacity on a temporary basis to alleviate the immediate supply situation.

CUC said it currently lacks a power reserve, resulting in power outages when any part of the system breaks down.

Energy Division issues energy saving tips

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
REPORTER

With power outages and talks of an energy crisis surfacing in recent weeks, the Energy Division offered several tips to help government and department heads reduce their energy costs.

In a memorandum released last week to all government agencies and department directors, energy division head Thelma Inos outlined several tips on how energy costs could be minimized to help the administration manage its utility bills.

Inos issued two sets of the third edition of *How to Reduce Your Energy Costs—the Energy Efficient Guide*.

The booklets offer informative and useful guides on becoming more energy-efficient. “You will learn ways to maintain and operate your energy systems to save money and in addition, many are low-cost or no-cost that you can do yourself,” said Inos.

Inos said the books provide information on how a consumer can profit from energy savings, how to track costs, and how to invest in energy improvements. It includes tips on lighting, heating, ventilation, air conditioning, hot water, machines, and how to do a walk-through self-audit.

“Effective energy management can save you hundreds or even thousand of dollars every year. Spend an hour reading this book and see how many ways you can save energy dollars,” she said, adding that investing in energy efficiency improvements can

yield excellent returns in the form of energy dollar savings.

“This book explains many capital investment projects and shows how to judge whether a particular investment is a good one. Energy management is not just for building owners,” she said.

Inos explained that trimming energy expenditures enable employers to spend more on other operational costs, including needed salary increases. The reduction on power cost may reach 30 percent, she said.

She offered nine steps to Saving Energy Dollars, which include energy audit and expert help. She urged department heads to keep track of its energy bills and to keep monitoring its energy costs.

The cost-saving measures include:

- turning off lights when not needed;
- removing unneeded light bulbs;
- replacing bulbs with lower wattages;
- lowering heating settings;
- raising air conditioning settings;
- reducing heating and air conditioning during unoccupied hours;
- turning off heating and air conditioning somewhat before the end of operating hours;
- have heating, air conditioning, and ventilating systems serviced and adjusted;
- turning off machines and equipments when not needed; and
- making sure all automatic controls are in good working condition and set properly.

bank of guam visa
4/28

AGO files 3 assault cases

The Attorney General’s Office filed with the Superior Court criminal charges against a man for allegedly assaulting a police officer who was about to arrest him.

CNMI chief prosecutor David Hutton also accused Albert S. Johnny, 36, of assaulting a woman and a minor last June 6 on Saipan.

Hutton filed three counts of assault and battery, two counts of disturbing the peace and a count of resisting arrest against Johnny, who allegedly refused to be taken into custody by police officer Kelly Camacho.

Hutton also lodged criminal charges against two other men

in separate cases.

One of the defendants, 31-year-old Juan A. Castro, allegedly beat up a woman on Monday last week on Saipan. Castro allegedly pulled the woman’s hair, slapped her, and repeatedly punched and kicked her back.

The prosecutor charged Castro with two counts of assault and battery and a count of disturbing the peace.

Meanwhile, Hutton filed assault and battery and disturbing the peace charges against 34-year-old Alvin P. Iglecias, who allegedly assaulted a woman on Saipan earlier this month. *(John Ravelo)*

Cohen arrives for 60th, leave allowed for House staff

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
REPORTER

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs David Cohen arrived on Saipan yesterday afternoon to celebrate with the Northern Marianas the 60th anniversary of the Battles of Saipan and Tinian. Cohen will participate in today's ceremony when all govern-

ment heads, employees, World War II veterans, and representatives from a cross-section of the community gather to witness the Beach Road parade that would highlight the celebrations. According to public information officer Pete Callaghan, Cohen arrived yesterday afternoon and would attend various activities.

To show the Legislature's support for the event, House Vice Speaker Timothy Villagomez granted yesterday a four-hour administrative leave to all members and staff of the 14th CNMI House of Representatives so they could participate in today's 60th anniversary parade. In a memorandum issued to all House members and staff, Villagomez urged all staffers to attend the parade on Beach Road that would take place at 3:30pm. "All House members and staff are granted four hours of administrative leave on Tuesday, June 15, 2004. The leave covers the afternoon hours of 12:30pm to 4:30pm," the vice-speaker said.

"Please celebrate responsibly and be safe," he added. On Friday, 60th Anniversary chair Diego T. Benavente also issued a memorandum allowing non-essential government employees to go on leave for the scheduled activities today. The memorandum was in response to calls for volunteers to help in welcoming veterans. Participants and World War II veterans started arriving last week to attend the weeklong celebration of the 60th anniversary. The event kicked off Sunday with the reading of the names of all Chamorros and Carolinians who were killed during the war.

Yesterday, Gov. Juan N. Babauta spearheaded the ribbon cutting for the American Memorial Park Visitor Center and WWII Exhibit Hall and unveiling of the 60th Commemorative Cancellation Stamp at 9am, which was shortly followed by the Time Capsule Dedication at the Park at 9:30am. The Department of Pacific Areas 38th Annual Convention at the Dai Ichi Hotel, closely coordinated by the Veteran's of Foreign War, also opened at 10am followed simultaneously with the History Alive Seminars on historical topics

at the Hyatt Regency Saipan. The weeklong ceremonies kicked off Saturday with events that would honor the sacrifices made by the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II and beyond and to commemorate the lives lost during the tragic battles. According to the committee, these events would promote awareness of the importance of understanding WWII history in the Mariana Islands and to preserve traditions among both regional and national audiences. The committee also reiterated its request for residents to help the government and its partners in keeping the islands clean during and after the celebration of the 60th anniversary this month.



Cohen



Another poker joint robbed

Another poker establishment fell victim to an armed robbery that not only resulted in the loss of money but also minor injuries to the cashier early yesterday morning. At about 2:53am, three unidentified suspects broke into the cashier's booth of the RC Poker by kicking down its door. Armed with a knife and a baseball bat, the suspects assaulted 26-year-old male Zhen Ben Li, forcing him down to the floor. Li suffered a minor cut on his upper right arm. Department of Public Safety public information officer Thomas A. Blas Jr. said the suspects took an undetermined amount of cash and coins from the cash box, including a pouch owned by the cashier, before fleeing the scene. According to police report, one of the suspects was wearing a red cloth covering his face while another was wearing a dark T-shirt and long dark pants. No description was given on the third suspect. Blas said the incident is referred to as the Crime Stoppers Crime of the Week. He urges anyone with any information about this to contact the Criminal Investigation Bureau at 664-9045/42, or the NMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. *(Shan Seman)*

Dump truck goes on bonanza ride after losing brakes

A dump truck caused major traffic delays along a road on Capitol Hill after losing its brakes and spilling its contents last Friday afternoon. Police report indicated that about 4:13pm, the vehicle, operated by 37-year-old male Parameswaren Somasundaran, was traveling down Capitol Hill when its breaks malfunctioned. The operator was unable to bring the vehicle to a stop, and as a result, the vehicle continued down the road with increasing speed. The vehicle then veered off the road and hit a tree, a power pole, and a parked vehicle at the Vestcor Village and Deloitte and Touche area. "The truck overturned once, spilling its contents and came to a rest right side up again," said Department of Public Safety public information officer Sgt. Thomas A. Blas Jr. "The driver of the truck managed to free himself from the wreck and sustained only minor scratches to his arms." The vehicle, a 1992 green-colored Hyundai dump truck with license plate number HE-2882, sustained extensive damage. Blas said the road was closed for hours as crews from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. worked on the downed pole while personnel of Pacific Drilling Ltd. cleared the roadway of the spill. "The roadway was cleared of all debris and was reopened at about 9pm," said Blas. *(Shan Seman)*

Man nabbed for assault

A 19-year-old man was arrested last Saturday after allegedly assaulting another man at a store in Garapan. Police report indicated that about 2:48pm, the suspect, Nelson Anson Saimon, went to the Ping Pong store and reportedly began yelling at the employees of the establishment. He then allegedly spilled over a barbeque grill, throwing tables, and throwing a rock at the victim, 44-year-old male Hyun Chol, before fleeing on foot. The rock hit the victim on the head. The victim was later arrested on charges of disturbing the peace, criminal mischief, assault, assault and battery, and assault with a dangerous weapon. He was brought to and detained at the Adult Correctional Facility. *(Shan Seman)*

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COMMUNITY Briefs

Beach Road closed today

The Department of Public Safety would like to inform the general public that Beach Road Quarter Master by the WWII Tank to the American Memorial Park, as well as all the intersections connecting to the mentioned strip of highway will be closed on June 15, 2004, Tuesday, from 2pm to 5:30pm.

The public is asked to use alternate routes during these hours. For more information, contact Traffic POI Rose T. Ada-Hocog or Sgt. Sylvan Rangamar or Sgt. Joseph Flores at 664-9084/5.

All veterans invited to participate in 60th parade

The Committee for the Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of WWII invites all veterans of any era to participate in today's parade honoring veterans of the Battles of Saipan and Tinian, as well as other Pacific Campaigns. Any veteran who wants to join the parade should be at the Kristo Rai Church at 3pm. The parade ends at the American Memorial Park.

Are you a WWII Pacific veteran?

The Northern Marianas College film documentary crew is looking for WWII veterans with stories that should be told and remembered. If you are a veteran, or if you know one, please contact the NMC crew at 484-2876 and ask for Dominic.

ASVAB exams set this weekend

Individuals 17-34 years of age who want to join the U.S. Army are urged to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery examinations that will be held June 18-19 at the U.S. Army Reserve Center in Puerto Rico.

The June 18 exam will be held at 4pm, while the June 19 exam will be at noon.

Interested individuals must bring a picture I.D. to process. If there are any questions call collect (671) 477-7666 and ask for SFC Abadam (cell 671-687-3540) or Sgt Benavente (cell 671-687-3660).

Broadcast schedule for Into The Wood

The radio broadcast of Into The Woods Jr. by students under the direction of Friends of the Arts will be on KRNH 88.1 and 89.1 FM. It will air on Saipan Radio Theatre over two weeks: June 15-22 at 7:30pm. It will also air on the Novel Hour, Tuesday, June 29, and Saturday, July 3 on the following times: Tuesday 8pm, Saturday 11am.

Attention to parents of GES 6th Grade graduates

On June 28, 2004 all 6th grade cumulative records will be sent to Hopwood Junior High School to prepare for the new school year. If your child will not be attending Hopwood, please come to the main office at GES to fill out a transfer-out form. This includes the parents of children who will be attending ChaCha Junior High School, private schools on Saipan, and/or any off-island school.

DEQ sets deadline for water report

The Division of Environmental Quality would like to announce to the owners and/or operators of all community public water systems that the due date for the annual Consumer Confidence Report for 2003 is on or before July 1, 2004.

All Community Public Water Systems are required to gather all 2003 analytical results and violations, if any, and produce a consumer confidence report, which will be disseminated to all consumers as well as provide a copy to DEQ.

DEQ also looks forward to reviewing and hopes to find all CCR's in exceptional order.

For additional information on the 2003 CCR, contact Tripler Dela Cruz of the DEQ Safe Drinking Water Branch at 664-8500/01.

Group offers free health screening

The United Filipino Organization and the Philippines' Overseas Workers Welfare Administration on Saipan disclosed launching a health-screening program as part of efforts to curb the rising incidence of diabetes among Filipinos in the CNMI.

UFO president Nel Atalig said the health-screening project would involve free glucose count and blood pressure tests.

Volunteers from the Commonwealth Health Center would perform the tests, she said.

Atalig said the event would be regularly conducted from 9am to 12 noon every last Sunday of the month.

The project was to kick off yesterday at the Nauru Building in Susupe, where the Philippine consulate offices are housed. (John Ravelo)

FLIGHT SCHEDULE JAN OF MAY 10, 2004				
DEPARTURES				
Palau-Saipan				
6600	7:00am	8:00am	SA	
6601	8:00am	9:00am	SA	10.4.1.1
6602	9:00am	10:00am	SA	
6603	10:00am	11:00am	SA	
6604	11:00am	12:00pm	SA	
6605	12:00pm	1:00pm	SA	
6606	1:00pm	2:00pm	SA	
6607	2:00pm	3:00pm	SA	11.4.1.1
6608	3:00pm	4:00pm	SA	
6609	4:00pm	5:00pm	SA	
6610	5:00pm	6:00pm	SA	
6611	6:00pm	7:00pm	SA	
6612	7:00pm	8:00pm	SA	
6613	8:00pm	9:00pm	SA	
6614	9:00pm	10:00pm	SA	
6615	10:00pm	11:00pm	SA	
6616	11:00pm	12:00am	SA	
6617	12:00am	1:00am	SA	
6618	1:00am	2:00am	SA	
6619	2:00am	3:00am	SA	
6620	3:00am	4:00am	SA	
6621	4:00am	5:00am	SA	
6622	5:00am	6:00am	SA	
6623	6:00am	7:00am	SA	
6624	7:00am	8:00am	SA	
6625	8:00am	9:00am	SA	
6626	9:00am	10:00am	SA	
6627	10:00am	11:00am	SA	
6628	11:00am	12:00am	SA	
6629	12:00am	1:00am	SA	
6630	1:00am	2:00am	SA	
6631	2:00am	3:00am	SA	
6632	3:00am	4:00am	SA	
6633	4:00am	5:00am	SA	
6634	5:00am	6:00am	SA	
6635	6:00am	7:00am	SA	
6636	7:00am	8:00am	SA	
6637	8:00am	9:00am	SA	
6638	9:00am	10:00am	SA	
6639	10:00am	11:00am	SA	
6640	11:00am	12:00am	SA	
6641	12:00am	1:00am	SA	
6642	1:00am	2:00am	SA	
6643	2:00am	3:00am	SA	
6644	3:00am	4:00am	SA	
6645	4:00am	5:00am	SA	
6646	5:00am	6:00am	SA	
6647	6:00am	7:00am	SA	
6648	7:00am	8:00am	SA	
6649	8:00am	9:00am	SA	
6650	9:00am	10:00am	SA	
6651	10:00am	11:00am	SA	
6652	11:00am	12:00am	SA	
6653	12:00am	1:00am	SA	
6654	1:00am	2:00am	SA	
6655	2:00am	3:00am	SA	
6656	3:00am	4:00am	SA	
6657	4:00am	5:00am	SA	
6658	5:00am	6:00am	SA	
6659	6:00am	7:00am	SA	
6660	7:00am	8:00am	SA	
6661	8:00am	9:00am	SA	
6662	9:00am	10:00am	SA	
6663	10:00am	11:00am	SA	
6664	11:00am	12:00am	SA	
6665	12:00am	1:00am	SA	
6666	1:00am	2:00am	SA	
6667	2:00am	3:00am	SA	
6668	3:00am	4:00am	SA	
6669	4:00am	5:00am	SA	
6670	5:00am	6:00am	SA	
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6673	8:00am	9:00am	SA	
6674	9:00am	10:00am	SA	
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6676	11:00am	12:00am	SA	
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6679	2:00am	3:00am	SA	
6680	3:00am	4:00am	SA	
6681	4:00am	5:00am	SA	
6682	5:00am	6:00am	SA	
6683	6:00am	7:00am	SA	
6684	7:00am	8:00am	SA	
6685	8:00am	9:00am	SA	
6686	9:00am	10:00am	SA	
6687	10:00am	11:00am	SA	
6688	11:00am	12:00am	SA	
6689	12:00am	1:00am	SA	
6690	1:00am	2:00am	SA	
6691	2:00am	3:00am	SA	
6692	3:00am	4:00am	SA	
6693	4:00am	5:00am	SA	
6694	5:00am	6:00am	SA	
6695	6:00am	7:00am	SA	
6696	7:00am	8:00am	SA	
6697	8:00am	9:00am	SA	
6698	9:00am	10:00am	SA	
6699	10:00am	11:00am	SA	
6700	11:00am	12:00am	SA	
6701	12:00am	1:00am	SA	
6702	1:00am	2:00am	SA	
6703	2:00am	3:00am	SA	
6704	3:00am	4:00am	SA	
6705	4:00am	5:00am	SA	
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6712	11:00am	12:00am	SA	
6713	12:00am	1:00am	SA	
6714	1:00am	2:00am	SA	
6715	2:00am	3:00am	SA	
6716	3:00am	4:00am	SA	
6717	4:00am	5:00am	SA	
6718	5:00am	6:00am	SA	
6719	6:00am	7:00am	SA	
6720	7:00am	8:00am	SA	
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6733	8:00am	9:00am	SA	
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6746	9:00am	10:00am	SA	
6747	10:00am	11:00am	SA	
6748	11:00am	12:00am	SA	
6749	12:00am	1:00am	SA	
6750	1:00am	2:00am	SA	
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6761	12:00am	1:00am	SA	
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6763	2:00am	3:00am	SA	
6764	3:00am	4:00am	SA	
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6773	12:00am	1:00am	SA	
6774	1:00am	2:00am	SA	
6775	2:00am	3:00am	SA	
6776	3:00am	4:00am	SA	
6777	4:00am	5:00am	SA	
6778	5:00am	6:00am	SA	
6779	6:00am	7:00am	SA	
6780	7:00am	8:00am	SA	
6781	8:00am	9:00am	SA	
6782	9:00am	10:00am	SA	
6783	10:00am	11:00am	SA	
6784	11:00am	12:00am	SA	
6785	12:00am	1:00am	SA	
6786	1:00am	2:00am	SA	
6787	2:00am	3:00am	SA	
6788	3:00am	4:00am	SA	
6789	4:00am	5:00am	SA	
6790	5:00am	6:00am	SA	
6791	6:00am	7:00am	SA	
6792	7:00am	8:00am	SA	
6793	8:00am	9:00am	SA	
6794	9:00am	10:00am	SA	
6795	10:00am	11:00am	SA	
6796	11:00am	12:00am	SA	
6797	12:00am	1:00am	SA	
6798	1:00am	2:00am	SA	
6799	2:00am	3:00am	SA	
6800	3:00am	4:00am	SA	
6801	4:00am	5:00am	SA	
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6803	6:00am	7:00am	SA	
6804	7:00am	8:00am	SA	
6805	8:00am	9:00am	SA	
6806	9:00am	10:00am	SA	
6807	10:00am	11:00am	SA	
6808	11:00am	12:00am	SA	
6809	12:00am	1:00am	SA	
6810	1:00am	2:00am	SA	
6811	2:00am	3:00am	SA	
6812	3:00am	4:00am	SA	
6813	4:00am	5:00am	SA	
6814	5:00am	6:00am	SA	
6815	6:00am	7:00am	SA	
6816	7:00am	8:00am	SA	
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6818	9:00am	10:00am	SA	
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6827	6:00am	7:00am	SA	
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6859	2:00am	3:00am	SA	
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6870	1:00am	2:00am	SA	
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6873	4:00am	5:00am	SA	
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6876	7:00am	8:00am	SA	
6877	8:00am	9:00am	SA	
6878	9:00am	10:00am	SA	
6879	10:00am	11:00am	SA	
6880	11:00am	12:00am	SA	
6881	12:00am	1:00am	SA	
6882	1:00am	2:00am	SA	

PSS amends child care program rules

The Public School System has amended its State Plan for the Child Care Program and submitted the proposed amendment to the regional office for their review and action, according to Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos.

The proposed amendment eliminates the requirement that at least one of the parents of the child must be a U.S. citizen to avail of the PSS' child care program.

The amendment reflects federal law, which requires that only the citizenship and immigration status of the child—the primary beneficiary of the child care benefit—is considered relevant for eligibility purposes.

Inos said she is pleased that the federal government has provided a policy clarification stating that the information and policy clarification that they gave to PSS several years ago is no longer valid and requires modification. Accordingly, the PSS is amending the State Plan to reflect the policy clarification. Inos said this amendment should expand the pool of children who may be eligible for child care services.

The commissioner cautioned that parents must still meet the federal income eligibility guidelines and must be either working full time, going to school full time or attending full time job training.

She added that the Child Care Program is an economic mainstreaming program with subsidized child care, enabling the parent or parents to work full time or attend school or job training.

Alcohol licenses renewal now being accepted

The Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division is reminding all licensed business establishments that applications for Alcoholic Beverage Control license renewals are now being accepted.

According to a notice sent out by the Commerce Department, those establishments that did not receive application forms through the ABTC courtesy service package can obtain applications forms at the Department of Commerce Building on Capitol Hill, Saipan.

All licensed businesses in Rota and Tinian may pick up application forms from the Resident Department Head at the Department of Commerce on Rota and Tinian.

The deadline for filing of renewal applications, including payment of fees, is on June 30, 2004.

All licensees whose renewal fees remain unpaid as of June 30, 2004 will automatically be suspended pursuant to 4 CMC Section 5528. Licenses that remain suspended as of July 31, 2004, due to unpaid renewal fees will automatically be revoked and the Secretary of Commerce shall not issue a renewal license. If a license still remains revoked as of July 30, 2004, a new application must be submitted for considered by the Secretary of Commerce.

Application forms are now available and may be received from the Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division anytime between 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday, except on weekends and legal holidays.

For more information, call the Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division at 664-3026/3061/3065.

Torres to attend US Coast Guard Academy

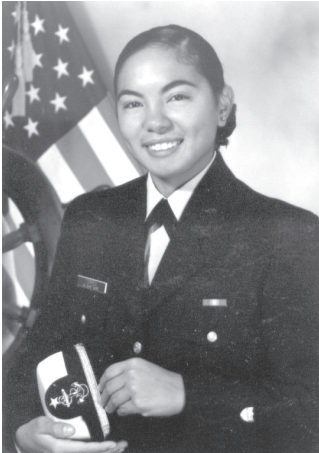
Christine Dela Cruz Torres, of Capitol Hill, Saipan, has been selected to be part of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy's Class of 2008. She is the first person from the CNMI to accept an appointment from a U.S. Service Academy after being enlisted.

Torres first enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard and left Saipan in August 2002 for U.S. Coast Guard basic training in Cape May, New Jersey. She graduated basic training on Sept. 20, 2002, and received orders to the Engineering Department of the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Mellon*, a 378' high-endurance cutter homeported in Seattle, Washington.

After conducting a two-month fisheries and search-and-rescue patrol in Alaska's Bering Sea, the *Mellon* was directed to San Diego, California, to conduct operational training to prepare for a deployment to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

While in San Diego, Torres received word that she was selected to attend the U.S. Naval Academy Preparatory School in Newport, Rhode Island.

During the 10-month school year at NAPS, she was her platoon's Honor Representative, and during the second trimester did not only fill that position, but also became her platoon's Executive Officer as well. Meeting the physical and academic requirements of both NAPS and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, she gradu-



Torres

emy is the only U.S. Service Academy that does not require a congressional nomination—acceptance is based solely on personal merit. An average of 6,000 students apply to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy every year, of which only a little over 300 are selected—about a 6-percent acceptance rate. Applicants must at least be 17 but not pass their 23rd birthday upon entrance into the Academy, may not be pregnant or have dependents, and must meet the Academy's physical and academic requirements.

When asked why she continued to pursue the U.S. Coast Guard Academy even after being enlisted for two years, Torres said: "My goal is to become an officer in the U.S. Coast Guard, and even though there have been 'bumps in the road,' I won't keep my eyes off that goal until I reach it."

Torres graduated with honors from Mount Carmel School in 2002. In high school, she was a member of the National Honor Society, was active in the school's drama and church programs, and attended the Junior Statesman of America program for three consecutive summers. She was also active in the community as one of the first hosts of Power 99's "Teen Talk Live" and was vice-speaker of the 4th CNMI Youth Congress.

Torres is the daughter of Antonio T. and Consolacion DLC. Torres of Capitol Hill, Saipan.

ated NAPS on May 14, 2004, and received her appointment to the Academy soon after.

The U.S. Coast Guard Academy is one of the five U.S. Service Academies, home to just a little over 800 cadets. The Academy offers eight major degrees in Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Marine and Environmental Science, Operations Research, Mathematics, Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, Management, and Government.

Cadets receive full tuition, room and board, complete medical and dental benefits, and a monthly allowance that increases each year. They spend summers aboard U.S. Coast Guard missions. Graduates from the Academy receive a Bachelor of Science degree and a commission as an officer in the U.S. Coast Guard.

The U.S. Coast Guard Acad-

daiichi
summer
club

cars
unlimited

HANMI, agencies to lobby vs ‘shobais’

Government agencies and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands have agreed to work together and lobby the Legislature to address once and for all mounting concerns by hoteliers on the intimidation of tourists by beach concessionaires and illegal vendors or “shobais.”

In a meeting held Friday at Pacific Gardenia Hotel, HANMI and officials of the Marianas Public Lands Authority, Coastal Resources Management Office and the Department of Public Safety noted that a bill is currently pending at the Legislature that would empower the CRMO to strictly regulate and oversee operations of beach concessionaires.

House Bill 14-52, a recycled version of earlier bills from previous legislatures, was introduced by Rep. Arnold I. Palacios, and is before the House Committee on Natural Resources chaired by Rep. Janet U. Maratita.

HANMI, MPLA Commissioner Henry Hofschneider, Public Safety deputy commissioner Franklin Babauta, CRMO enforcement chief Martin Cabrera and CRMO permit manager Martin Castro, who were present during the luncheon meeting agree that the bill needs more teeth.

Michael von Siebenthal, Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager and HANMI secretary, said the intimidation of tourists by beach concessionaires and shobais is a “serious concern that had been discussed in the past” but not resolved.

Among the concerns were those raised in the meeting by Mark Swinton, Dai-Ichi Hotel general manager and HANMI treasurer, about men loitering at the hotel premises drunk and without shirts on.

Swinton said hotel security guards tried to talk the men into leaving the premises, which only ended in a fist fight.

The men were allegedly employed by beach concessionaires, of which Dai Ichi Hotel has six.

B.K. Park, Saipan World Resort general manager and HANMI vice president, said they have been receiving letters from tourists who had stayed at the hotel expressing displeasure at the way they were treated by the beach concessionaires.

“They were scared,” said Park.

Other hotel general managers noted similar incidents happening in their premises.

The hoteliers said these actions by beach concessionaires are hurting ef-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mark Swinton, right, Dai-Ichi Hotel general manager, stresses a point during the meeting. Listening on are, from right, lawyer Steve Carrara of Carlsmith Ball, and Joe Asanuma, Marianas Resort & Spa assistant general manager.

orts to attract tourists in the CNMI.

“They [tourists] go home and tell their families and friends about their sad experiences here. And that’s not good for us,” said HANMI chair Ronald Sablan.

“We want to make it very clear that we respect the services provided by the

concessionaires. The only thing that we ask is that they respect the hotels’ concerns to be courteous to tourists.

“We also understand that there are shobais that may be representing other establishments not necessarily representing the concessionaires,” said Sablan.

Several proposals were raised during the meeting, including one by Hofschneider who said they are considering pulling out all beach concessionaires from hotel premises and placing them all in a designated public land.

But Siebenthal said this would only make things harder for the tourists. “We don’t want to get rid of the concessionaires. We only want them to behave,” he said.

Sablan proposed that HANMI be allowed by CRMO and MPLA to be involved in the review process when a beach concessionaire’s permit is up for renewal, a matter that Hofschneider said they would consider.

“Hotels should have a say in the review process when renewing beach concessions,” Sablan said.

Still another proposal was to convene a meeting between the beach concessionaires and HANMI, something that, Sablan said, had been done in the past to no avail.

HANMI and the government officials would be meeting again to draw up lobby plans.

“We will set a meeting again. We have to address this issue once and for all,” said Sablan.

Council urges 2007 constitutional convention

The 8th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council recently adopted a resolution asking the members of the Legislature and Gov. Juan N. Babauta to call for a Constitutional Convention in 2007.

According to Resolution No. 8SMC-2RS-81, the Third Constitutional Convention was held in 1995, and Article XVII (Constitutional Amendment) Section 2(a) (Constitutional Convention) stipulated that the Legislature, by the affirmative vote of the majority of the members of each house, may submit to the voters the

question, “Shall there be a Constitutional Convention to propose amendments to the Constitution?”

The Legislature, or the Governor in the event the Legislature fails to act, may submit this question to the voters at the regular general election no later than 10 years after the last question was submitted and or provided by law.

Further, members of the municipal council recommends that the question to the voters be placed on the ballot at the 2005 regular general election followed by the election

of delegates at the 2007 November mid-term election.

In the interest of reducing costs, the municipal council said the composition of the 4th Constitutional Convention be apportioned with the Third Senatorial District electing 15 members and the First and Second Senatorial Districts electing 6 delegates each.

“Further, the Council feels that with the time frame, the Legislature and the Executive Branches will have sufficient time to prepare for a successful 4th Constitutional Convention,” it added.

Longtime CPA employee retires

After 19 years of dedication and great loyalty to the Commonwealth Ports Authority, longtime employee Winifreda V. Borja retired from the ports authority service.

Executive director Carlos H. Salas said Borja has decided to retire from CPA to spend more time with her children and grandchildren. Borja left CPA as the Assistant Custodial Supervisor at the Saipan International Airport.

“On behalf of the Board of Directors and management and staff of CPA, I congratulate Ms. Borja,” Salas said during the CPA’s managers’ meeting. He praised Borja for excellence and outstanding contributions to CPA, par-

ticularly the Custodial Department.

Borja, who has been with the CPA for the last 19 years, has contributed to the great appearance and sanitary conditions of the airport facilities. “The example of a diligent employee you have set here at the airport will live on forever and serve as a model to the employees,” said the executive director.

For her part, Borja expressed sadness in leaving behind a family-like atmosphere at the CPA and extended her deepest appreciation to the past and present management, Board of Directors, and employees for their support, cooperation and good company since she was hired in 1985. *(Edith G. Alejandro)*

rms

cuc
meet

community guidance

MARK RABAGO

Glenna Palacios and Ben Jones, center, won the members and guest divisions of the Philippine Independence Day Golf Tournament held last Saturday. Also in photo with the two are, clockwise from left, Joe Miranda, George Moses, Gil Faller, and Jung Euk Teack.

The Saipan Time Capsule

On Monday, June 14, 2004 a time capsule with messages and memorabilia for residents of the Northern Marianas and others to be opened in the year 2104 was buried at the American Memorial Park in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the 1944 invasion and liberation of Saipan and Tinian.

Positioned below ground in a water proof container within a concrete receptacle, the time capsule will remain undisturbed for the next four generations not to be opened until the 160th anniversary of the invasion. The capsule contains historical records and objects representative of current culture and the battle for Saipan and was buried in the presence of the Navajo code talkers, a group of American Indians that used their unique language as a valuable resource to communicate secretly in a tribal vernacular unknown and incomprehensible to the radio listening Japanese interceptors. While the Navajos transmitted secret military tactical information between themselves for translation into English for use by the American forces, it was felt appropriate that they be remembered



on the Memorial Park grounds as messages were left behind for communication from that time to those of a future age.

When the contents of the capsule are recovered and opened for examination on that distant day hopefully, it will be re-dedicated and returned to its resting place for discovery at a still more distant future time. One can only wonder what the island and the world will be like when the contents of the capsule are again seen and studied by people of the distant future. Someone once said, "time passes" but for this capsule, "time will stay—we will pass".

The lengthening shadows on the parks hallowed ground will remind us of the dark shadow of time on our own lives as marked by the dusk of each passing day.

Protected from the ravenous vultures of the air and sea in a casket of memories, we know life's message that time flies and draws us with it. The moment in which we speak is already far from us.

Someone once observed: "Time is the most undefinable yet paradoxical of things; the past is gone, the future has not yet come, and

By **WILLIAM H. STEWART**
Military Historical Cartographer



the present becomes the past even while we attempt to define it, and, like the flash of lightning, it exists and expires".

Some 50 years before the birth of Christ, the Roman poet Horace said:

"Time will bring to light what ever is hidden; it will conceal and cover up what is now shining." When memories wain—and trumpets fade,

Let it be said: Here—a difference was made.

60 years in an economic nutshell: 1944 and beyond

By **WILLIAM H. STEWART**
Military Historical Cartographer

After the Marianas were secured by American forces and the airfields constructed from which to launch the B-29 assault on Japan, the fighting continued elsewhere in the Pacific at Peleliu, the Philippines, Iwo Jima and Okinawa until the Japanese were convinced by the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945 that hostilities between the United States and Japan must be ended. The war was formally concluded on September 2, 1945 aboard the battleship Missouri.

Even though the islands were taken from Japan by force of arms in 1944 the United States never acknowledged the islands as belonging to Japan in the first place. Germany had purchased them from Spain in 1899 and administered them as a colony until the start of World War One in 1914 at which time Japan, then an ally of the United States, moved into the Marianas and forced the German administration out. Following the World War One defeat of Germany in 1919 all of that country's overseas colonies were stripped away with their Pacific islands assigned to Japan to be administered for the League of Nations. This status remained until 1944. When World War II ended, the American position was that the United States did not wage the war for territorial gain and that the U. S. could not legitimately take the islands from Japan claiming "victor's rights" since they were never recognized by the U.S. as Japanese territory before, during or after the war.

The Northern Marianas, along with other Micronesian islands formerly within the Japanese Mandated Islands, were placed under the purview of the newly created United Nations' Security Council to be administered by the United States as a strategic trust where the U.S. had veto power. The islands were first administered by the U. S. Navy and later by the Department of Interior.

The economy of the new Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, as the area was then known, of which the Mariana Islands was a part, languished as they drifted into obscurity through the decades of the fifties, sixties and seventies. At one point in the fifties, Saipan was the site of the U. S. Naval Tactical Training Unit, a Cold War CIA operation to train personnel from selected Asian countries in the techniques of guerrilla warfare. This activity ended when the Headquarters of the Trust Territory Government was relocated from Guam to Saipan in July, 1962. As a result of this move a government headquarters of several thousand personnel responsible for administering 100 inhabited Micronesian islands scattered throughout 3 million square miles of the western Pacific Ocean served to stimulate the economy of Saipan to some extent, although to a limited degree.

In the early seventies representatives of the various island governments entered into negotiations with the United States for the purpose of eventually terminating the United Nations' Trusteeship Agreement. These negotiations eventually evolved into four choices for the area's future political status.

These choices were: independence; free association with the United States; maintain the status quo and remain under the trusteeship arrangement of the U N or become a United States Commonwealth.

The people of the Northern Mariana Islands in a plebiscite held in June, 1975 elected by a vote of 78.8 percent of those casting a ballot to accept the status of a United States Commonwealth under the terms of a negotiated Covenant. In so doing

the Northern Marianas became the only former enemy territory emerging from the flames of war to elect by their own free will to remain under the American flag in association with the United States. Yet even today the Commonwealth has no elected voice within the United States Congress.

Since 1976 the United States has provided more than \$1 billion to the Northern Marianas by virtue of the Covenant agreement and by way of extensive federal infrastructure projects for road surfacing, air and seaport improvement, hospital construction, etc.

Being affiliated with the United States brought many benefits. These advantages are in addition to the many freedoms enjoyed by American citizens under the United States Constitution, advantages which include benefiting from a myriad of social and economic programs made available by the U. S. Government such as: the U. S. postal system; life saving, search and rescue activities of the U. S. Navy and Coast Guard. Other benefits include weather service and typhoon warning systems, typhoon damage relief from a variety of agencies; food stamps; medical care; rent subsidies and the availability of low cost housing; loans for small businesses and higher education; agricultural services; children's headstart programs, social security, diplomatic protection when traveling in foreign lands and many more programs and services.

Once associated with the United States the American judicial system's rule of law inspired confidence among foreign investors and for the first time since its destruction in 1944 the private sector of the new Commonwealth started to slowly recover from the ravages of war.

As a result of U.S. Congressional action a large garment industry located in the islands and prospered as a result of the ability to export their products into the U.S. market free of U.S. import duties.

During the decade of the eighties foreign investment, mostly Japanese and Korean, flooded into the islands and by 1990 the private sector reported annual gross earnings of more than one billion dollars for the first time in the area's history. Much of this money was generated by a thriving foreign owned garment industry and from young Japanese tourists visiting the island's resorts. Many of the Japanese tourists are themselves the relatives of the Japanese soldiers who fought and died on the beaches and in the mountains, jungles and caves of Saipan sixty years ago.

How did it happen that for more than forty years following the conclusion of hostilities, the islands' economic growth within the private sector remained virtually stagnant and as listless as the doldrums—then suddenly in the mid-eighties burst forth in unprecedented economic growth that was to change the landscape forever?

What occurred to initiate the unprecedented economic growth of some 18 years ago and then initiate an economic decline some 6 to 7 years later? Here's how it all happened.

The CNMI benefited from a once in a lifetime economic windfall and one likely to never occur again.

For many years the United States ran huge annual trade imbalances with Japan. This was simply a result of the United States purchasing more Japanese manufactured goods than the Japanese bought from the U. S. In an effort to make American produced goods less expensive with the hope that the Japanese would purchase more from U. S. manufacturers and agricultural producers, in 1986 at the Plaza accords in New York, the U. S. devalued the dollar in relation to the yen. In 1985 the average annual exchange rate of the yen was 245.6 to one dollar. It then fell to:

169.0, ('86); 137.0, ('87); 128.0, ('88) and 135.0, (91). Dollars could be purchased for fewer and fewer yen.

By devaluing the dollar in 1986 it was believed this would stimulate exports to Japan which the Japanese would purchase with the immense sum of dollars they owned at that time.

However, U. S. manufactured products that the Japanese wanted were few indeed and their dollars continued to pile up. What did they do? They took their U. S. dollars—flew to the United States, (and elsewhere), and purchased real estate and other assets. This also occurred in the islands as they purchased prime real estate. The Japanese constructed hotels primarily to accommodate Japanese tourists, they operated Japanese tour buses to drive them around, created restaurants to feed them along with many small gift shops, ground tour operations, etc., to service their other needs.

The great boom period in Japan extending from 1986 into the early nineties also fueled Saipan's economic engine. Japanese banks overflowed with money, much more than they could accommodate by relending and digesting in Japan itself. It was this money that went abroad and around the world to finance a myriad of projects. The millions invested in the Northern Marianas launched the islands on the road to a thriving tourism industry. It has been estimated that from 3/4 to one billion dollars in foreign investment flowed into the Commonwealth during the short period of about six years—most of it Japanese.

United States grants and monetary support aside, it was the wealth of a defeated adversary rather than that of American investors that was responsible for the initial growth of the Commonwealth's private sector.

On Saipan, land which had been leased for \$30 per square meter in 1986 increased in value to \$300 per sq. meter or more by 1989 -'90 with beach front hotel sites ranging from \$150 to \$500 per square meter during the period.

All went well until the Japanese financial "bubble" burst in the early nineties and their speculative "house of cards" collapsed. As it turned out many Japanese firms defaulted on their loan payments having gambled that real estate prices would continue to rise.

Japan's economic difficulties worsened as stock prices continued to decline sharply resulting in a slowdown in investment in the Commonwealth and elsewhere. The nation's wealth in the eighties had been largely tied to grossly inflated paper values on the Tokyo Stock Exchange and, as values tumbled, stock prices fell dangerously low. At the same time Japanese visitor entries declined and those that did visit the islands became more prudent in their spending habits purchasing less expensive gift items and dining in less costly restaurants. The "boom" days were gone—a recession set in.

That was little over ten - twelve years ago and the Japanese economy is only now beginning to recover. Today many Japanese investors appear to be divesting themselves of their businesses in the Commonwealth. Hopefully, the economy of the Commonwealth will soon recover as well. The sixty year period since 1944 has seen destruction, reconstruction, "boom" and "bust."

Today, as in the recent past, the economy has been supported by a large non-resident work force. In the year 2000 the composition of the population was approximately as follows: U.S. citizen indigenous (local)—17,400 (25%); non-indigenous U.S. citizens—8,700 (12%); all others (foreign)—43,200 (63%), total—69,200. There you have it, 60 years of island economic history in a nutshell.



Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Anatahan eruption continues

The Emergency Management Office maintained its advisory for aircraft to take precaution amid the continuing volcanic activity on Anatahan, citing the possibility that the eruption could escalate with little or no warning.

The EMO's Juan Takai Camacho flew to Anatahan sometime last week and observed "an active spatter cone from which continuous strombolian explosions throw material as high as 100 meters upward every 10 seconds to one minute."

The EMO and the U.S. Geological Survey reported on a sustained high seismicity and frequent small volcanic eruptions on Anatahan this month. The agencies said the high seismicity correlates with a 100-km-long, light-colored plume of steam and ash.

Anatahan's current eruption began with increased seismicity on March 30 this year, although volcanic activity had continued even after the big eruption on May 10 last year. A more energetic period began

on April 24, when a light ash cloud rose to a few thousand feet, according to the EMO and the USGS.

The EMO said that, while the current volcanic activity is not dangerous to most aircraft, the condition could change rapidly. It advised aircraft to pass upwind of Anatahan or farther than 30 kilometers downwind from the island and exercise due caution within 30-50 km of the island.

Anatahan remains off-limits to the general public amid a

standing emergency declaration by Gov. Juan N. Babauta, who restricted all travels to the island except for scientific expedition. According to the EMO, the off-limits zone extends to 10 nautical miles around Anatahan.

The governor began placing Anatahan under such declaration days after the volcano's big eruption on May 10 last year. The volcanic activity eventually slowed down, but regained intensity since March. **(John Ravelo)**

ENOLA

From Page 1

and lovely island. The people are nice and very peace loving."

Tibbets, who spoke briefly at the Veterans of Foreign Wars-Department of Pacific Areas 38th Annual Convention at the Dai-ichi Hotel Saipan Beach, commented on his return journey.

"When I was first invited to come here, I said I didn't want to go. But then I realized that I owe you people here something. I felt that I owe you my presence. I wanted you to see me and make your opinion on who and what you think I am," he said.

Tibbets spoke of the bombing of Nagasaki and its effect on the war, saying, "What we did when we came here was we joined the side of the underdogs, and I always love moving in and trying to help the underdog in any way that I could. My one objective after I was briefed was to convince the Japanese of the futility to continue to fight, and I think that's what we did with the Nagasaki bomb. Scholars have proven, and it is evident that the bomb turned the tide."

Jeppson, for his part, stressed that importance of the role Mariana Islands played in the outcome of the war.

"Many in the world do not realize what was made possible due to the events in the Marianas," he said. "We had to have the islands. It was the closest we could get to Japan, and that played a big role in turning the war around."

As for his return to the island, Jeppson said he had been anticipating the trip.

"I had no second thoughts," he said. "I didn't know what quite to expect, but everything so far is great. It is far more beautiful and I see a great future growth in tourism as a result."

For his part, Van Kirk stressed that the mission to Japan and everything behind it was worthwhile.

"Many millions of people would have been killed if we did not drop the bomb," he said. "The problem with people today is that they criticize the using of the bomb, yet they do not know what it's about. They don't understand what the situation was. The bomb did a lot of good for the total of mankind."

The crew, with other WWII veterans, local dignitaries, and guests also took part in various events yesterday including a time capsule dedication, the ribbon cutting ceremony for

the Visitor Center and WWII Exhibit Hall at the American Memorial Park, the unveiling of the 60th Commemoration Cancellation Stamp, the VFW Department of Pacific Areas 38th Annual Convention, and the History Alive Seminars.

Preserving the present

Two 10-inch cylinders were filled with messages, newspapers, memorabilia, photos, business cards, etc. yesterday as many gathered at the American Memorial Park to take part in the Time Capsule dedication.

The four-foot long cylinders will be sealed with glass covers at both ends and placed into 12-inch tubes four feet into the ground.

"This is an opportunity for us to preserve the present for the future," said 60th anniversary organizing committee co-chair Jerry Facey. "

Facey said the tubes will be opened a century from today, June 15, 2104.

Donation to Museum

Jeppson and Van Kirk, along with Gov. Juan N. Babauta and other dignitaries, also took part in a donation ceremony at the CNMI Museum of History and Culture.

The two members of the *Enola Gay* crew expressed their desire to contribute to the CNMI community by donating various items that will be displayed for learning at the museum as well as to assist with raising funds.

"Their intention was to give something to the museum that would have commercial value, which we could put up for sale to raise funds," said museum acting executive director Barbara G. Moir.

Among the items donated were 40 posters—all signed by the three remaining *Enola Gay* crew—that shows details of the *Enola Gay* mission, two one-hour video tape featuring a historical documentary of the *Enola Gay*, and copies of a book written by Tibbets.

Van Kirk disclosed that the tape was filmed in 1995 and features various members of the crew.

"The film was made at our direction," he said. "From a historical standpoint, everything is true and as accurate as you can get. It's not a Hollywood version."

Moir said one tape will be placed in the museum's archive, while the other will be used for a feature.

WATER

From Page 1

our customers will not pay more than \$3 [for 5-gallon bottled water].

Songcuan said increasing fuel prices have significantly raised the company's production and freight costs—as well as that of plastic, a petroleum by-product—despite implementing reduced work hours and other cost-cutting measures.

Saipan Ice's fuel cost in May reached \$7,200, much higher than the monthly total of up to \$5,500 last year—an increment of close to 40 percent. Freight cost for a 40-footer container van has increased by almost double from \$3,800 to \$7,200, he added.

Songcuan said the company held on to plans of raising water prices for several months, but is now compelled to implement them for survival. He said yesterday's average price of \$1.55 is below the break-even cost of \$2.

"With the average of \$1.55, we're not making any money,"

he said. "We're not actually increasing our prices. We're going back to the old rates [when there was less competition in the industry]."

The executive also mentioned other factors that have impacted on the company's expenses, including the need to maintain compliance with government regulations. He said the cost of sanitation permits for the company's delivery trucks and drivers have also increased.

He also noted that the company is undertaking to construct an injection well with a cost of \$40,000 to comply with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's regulations, as well as the conduct of terrorism risk assessment.

Saipan Ice is the leading local water company in the CNMI, with an estimated market share of 40 percent, according to Songcuan, who added that there are 17 water bottling companies in the CNMI.

There was no immediate word yet if other bottled water companies in the CNMI are also going to raise their prices.

The price adjustment in

bottled water prices came after a recent communication between the U.S. Department of Justice and the CNMI Attorney General's Office in connection with the campaign against violation of consumer laws. CNMI consumer counsel Brian Caldwell disclosed receiving communication from the Justice Department's Antitrust Division, which renewed its commitment to investigate and prosecute criminal violations in connection with the national government's gas price monitoring project.

Caldwell had earlier filed with the Federal Trade Commission a complaint lamenting high retail prices of Mobil's gasoline on Saipan, adding that pump prices on Rota and Tinian are even higher. He sought the FTC's assistance in ascertaining whether or not the oil firm has violated consumer laws, a matter which the company vehemently denies.

Mobil has raised gas prices in the CNMI six times since the beginning of the year for a cumulative gallon price adjustment of 27 cents. It first

raised its pump prices by 3 cents, and then 4 cents, before taking on four rounds of 5-cent adjustments. The price increases resulted in a cumulative gallon price adjustment of 27 cents this year.

Mobil gas stations on the islands now retail regular and super gasoline at \$2.589 and \$2.679 per gallon at full-serve rate. Self-serve rate for regular and super gasoline have reached \$2.379 and \$2.479, respectively.

Shell has raised retail fuel prices five times since January for a cumulative price adjustment of 25 cents per gallon. It first raised gallon prices by 7 cents in January, before increasing them again by 5 cents three times, and then 3 cents.

Shell stations on Saipan now peg regular and premium gasoline's gallon prices at \$2.429 and \$2.529, respectively, at self-serve rate. Full-serve rates are slightly higher at \$2.559 and \$2.649. Shell also raised the gallon price of diesel by 5 cents on top of the previous \$2.479 for a new rate of \$2.529.

if the price of fuel varies from a specific unit cost, she said.

Generally, the fuel surcharge fee is a charge or credit that is applied to each kilowatt-hour of electricity sold, which is computed each month.

CUC cited that Title 4 of the Commonwealth Code, Section 8143 provides that the CUC board shall determine whether to impose a fuel surcharge fee of up to \$0.035 per kilowatt for all consumers of electricity.

The board has not approved this fee yet.

HIGH

From Page 1

mation pertaining to the development and implementation of a fuel adjustment charge for possible inclusion as an add-on to CUC's rates for electricity," said Williams.

He said such a plan would be ready early this week.

He reported that operations during the first seven months were normal except for the increase in the cost of diesel, which the CUC uses as fuel for its power plants.

Expenses for fuel rose by about \$2.5 million this year compared with the same period last year—an increase of 13 percent over last year's expenses.

He said that fuel price per gallon remains high. In March, the price was \$1.02 per gallon and in April, it rose to \$1.05.

Last week, he said that based on the latest Platts Oil Gram price report, the price of fuel bought by CUC cost \$1.15 per gallon. The report is the source document for determining the price of fuel each month per CUC's fuel supply contract with Mobil Marianas.

Williams said that based on the latest news, the price of fuel will remain at \$1 or more per gallon for at least the next several months.

In early May, the CUC management floated the idea of imposing a fuel surcharge fee of up to \$0.035 per kilowatt due to rising fuel prices.

CUC executive director Lorraine A. Babauta said the fee would permit CUC "to recover increases and to pass on decreases in fuel costs."

This is done through an adjustment in the customer's bill

FUND

From Page 1

of HPMR's original contract.

"We need the board approval for that," he said.

HPMR is the third-party administrator for the health insurance aspect of the Fund's GHLI program.

In March this year, the board decided not to renew HPMR's

contract in anticipation of the full privatization of GHLI this year. It then changed its mind and decided to extend HPMR contract up to December this year primarily due to the lack of a transition program. The board said it is prudent to keep HPMR's services further so as not to jeopardize the program.

"The contract expires July 31 and no transition plan is in place.

We don't want to jeopardize the program and the subscribers. The subscribers are our biggest concern," board chair Joseph Reyes had said.

He acknowledged that the transition work has not been easy as expected. "So we are very, very mindful of it. It has to be done right."

The Fund, he said, simply has no time to put everything in order

before July 31, considering that it is still seeking out proposals to put out a program criteria.

Further, Reyes said the Fund has to settle important issues such as the inclusion of retirees in the program.

He said the Fund is concerned about its negotiation with providers as to whether it could get the same or better deals than HPMR.

This came even as he noted that health insurance payments to providers are not timely. He said the Fund wants to know whether discounts would still be available if they are owed by the Department of Public Health.

Gov. Juan N. Babauta, who is pushing for the privatization of the health insurance program, favors the conversion of GHLI to a private, cafeteria-style

health insurance program for government employees and retirees. The governor's proposal would allow subscribers to choose the health insurance providers that they want.

This would become possible when the government solicits bids from private health insurance providers, in which a group of three or more would be selected.

Business

US gas prices see first drop of year



A worker fills gasoline in Bangkok Friday, June 11, 2004.

AP

By **PAUL CHAVEZ**
AP WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A boost in gasoline production and a dip in oil prices have led to the first nationwide drop this year in gas prices at the pump, an industry analyst said Sunday.

The weighted national average price for all three grades of gasoline was \$2.04 per gallon on Friday after rising more than 59 cents since mid-December, said Trilby Lundberg, who publishes the biweekly Lundberg Survey, which regularly polls nearly 8,000 gas stations across the United States.

The average price for all grades on the last survey in May was slightly above \$2.10 a gallon.

“Whether for the rest of the summer gas prices will continue to trend down depends on OPEC’s follow-through to increase oil output and how strong our gasoline demand turns out to be,” Lundberg said Sunday. “We always consume the most in June, July and August.”

The drop at the pump also reflects an effort by refiners to maximize their gasoline production and increase supply to meet summer driving demand.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, which supplies more than a third of the world’s crude, announced earlier this month that it would raise its official daily production quota by more than 2 million barrels

to 26 million barrels and, if necessary, by an additional 500,000 barrels on Aug. 1.

Crude oil prices, which have been hovering above \$40 a barrel in recent weeks, settled at \$38.45 a barrel Thursday on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The national weighted average price of a gallon of gasoline at self-serve pumps on Friday, including taxes, was about \$2.01 for regular, \$2.11 for midgrade and \$2.20 for premium.

Tulsa, Okla., had the lowest average price of any city, with self-serve regular selling for about \$1.75. The highest prices were found in the San Francisco Bay area, at \$2.32, Lundberg said.

Top trade negotiators meet at UN forum

By **TOM MURPHY**
AP WRITER

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP)—Top trade negotiators met Sunday in a push to break down global trade barriers but made little progress in an effort to create a free trade zone covering the European Union and four South American countries.

The meetings were taking place on the sidelines of a 180-nation United Nations forum on trade and development bringing together representatives of the world’s richest and poorest countries in Sao Paulo, Brazil’s financial and industrial capital.

Developing nations renewed calls for better access to the markets of the wealthier economies at the 11th session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, or UNCTAD. But they also faced pressure to reduce their own trade barriers.

In a move to break an impasse over agricultural subsidies in developed countries, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick met with Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim, Australian Trade Minister Mark Vaile, EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy, and Indian Commerce and Industry Minister Kamal Nath.

They said they made progress but still need to resolve many technical details ahead of a July deadline in the stalled Doha round of World Trade Organization talks aimed at slashing subsidies, tariffs and other barriers to global commerce.

“The U.S. is having a good recovery, and other countries are as well,” Zoellick said. “If we can combine an upswing in the world economy with an expansion in trade, that’s the best thing we can do.”

Added Lamy: “The political direction is there. We all agree that export subsidies have to be phased out, domestic support

has to be reduced and market access has to be approved.”

The European Union agreed in principle last month to scrap export subsidies on farm produce—blamed for hurting producers in poor countries—and dropped controversial demands for new global rules on investment, competition and government procurement.

The United States has already signaled readiness to scrap its own much smaller export subsidies and trade-distorting export credits.

But both Washington and Brussels have stressed that the concessions are conditional on poorer countries agreeing to open their own markets.

Amorim also met separately

with Lamy on the formation of a new trade bloc linking the EU and South America’s Mercosur group—Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.

The two sides hope to seal a free trade deal by October, but Amorim and Lamy told reporters the two sides remain far apart on the key issues of agricultural subsidies, services and government procurement.

They ordered their teams of negotiators to continue working through Monday in Sao Paulo and stressed they are still committed to the October deadline.

Lamy said the two sides agreed that “we want an ambitious result. Today, after the meeting, we have a better sense of what the issues are and how we can resolve them.”

Canada recruits workers from Mexico

SALTILLO, Mexico (AP)—While the United States struggles to strike a balance between labor shortages and the illegal entrance of thousands of Mexican migrants, Canada is sending recruiters into the mountains and cities of Mexico in search of workers.

More than 10,000 Mexicans work in Canada each year, mainly in the provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Alberta and Manitoba.

The program was started to help fill worker shortages in agriculture, but has been so successful that Canadian officials are expanding it to urban, unemployed Mexicans who seek the low-skill jobs that Canadians don’t want, in construction, the hotel industry and meatpacking plants.

Canada first allowed in for-

eign workers from the Caribbean in 1966 and eight years later some 200 Mexican laborers were hired. Today, about 5,000 Caribbean workers also participate, but Mexico contributes the highest number of migrants.

“This is a win-win situation,” said Julian Anzaldúa, of the Mexican Coahuila state employment service, which contracts guest workers. “Unfortunately, we don’t have employment opportunities for many of our workers here, and in Canada they work with all the protections any Canadian worker would have.”

To qualify, Mexican workers must be offered a job by a Canadian employer who can’t find employees locally. The employer pays for transportation costs between Mexico City and Canada, and about a third of the

costs are later deducted from the employee’s wages.

Contracted migrants can work from six weeks to eight months, are guaranteed minimum wages, a 40-hour week and free housing, Anzaldúa said.

A reliable pool of qualified workers has allowed the agricultural industry to expand, creating more job opportunities for foreign and domestic workers, said Dave Greenhill, senior policy adviser for Canada’s Human Resources and Skill Development Department.

The program is similar to a proposal in the United States made this year by President Bush. Under his plan, which must be approved by Congress, Mexican workers with U.S. job offers could receive temporary visas if they can prove no Americans want to fill the jobs.

Tokyo, London said most expensive cities

LONDON (AP)—The weak American dollar and strong European and Asian currencies helped make Tokyo and London the most expensive cities in the world, according to a survey released Monday.

American cities were absent from the top 10, with the most expensive U.S. city, New York, dropping two spots from last year to 12 in the survey of 144 urban areas conducted by Mercer Human Resource Consulting.

Moscow ranked in third place, with Osaka, Japan, and Hong Kong rounding out the top five most expensive cities.

The survey, drawn up twice a year, ranks cost of living for foreign workers, not local residents, and is used primarily by multi-

national companies to determine pay for expatriate employees.

“The euro appreciated more than 11 percent in the last six months,” said Marie-Laurence Sepede, senior researcher at Mercer. “So that made European cities go up and U.S. cities drop.”

Sepede noted that while U.S. cities got cheaper in relation to those in Europe and Asia, the rankings among American cities remained similar to previous years, with Los Angeles, Chicago and San Francisco all placing high on the list.

Also notable was the climb of Australian and New Zealand cities up the list, a shift caused by those nations’ strong currencies. Sydney moved from 67 last year to 20 this year, and Auckland, New

Zealand climbed 35 places to 80.

The rest of the top 20 remained fairly constant, although Paris, Vienna, Austria and Istanbul, Turkey made their first appearances so high in the rankings.

The survey took into consideration 250 criteria, including the cost of utilities, food and entertainment.

While the survey looked at a range of living standards, Sepede said the study was most representative of the expenses of people working for big international corporations and maintaining fairly high standards of living.

Mercer said the continued appreciation of the euro against the U.S. dollar could eventually force companies to move employees and reorganize.

etc

Asia

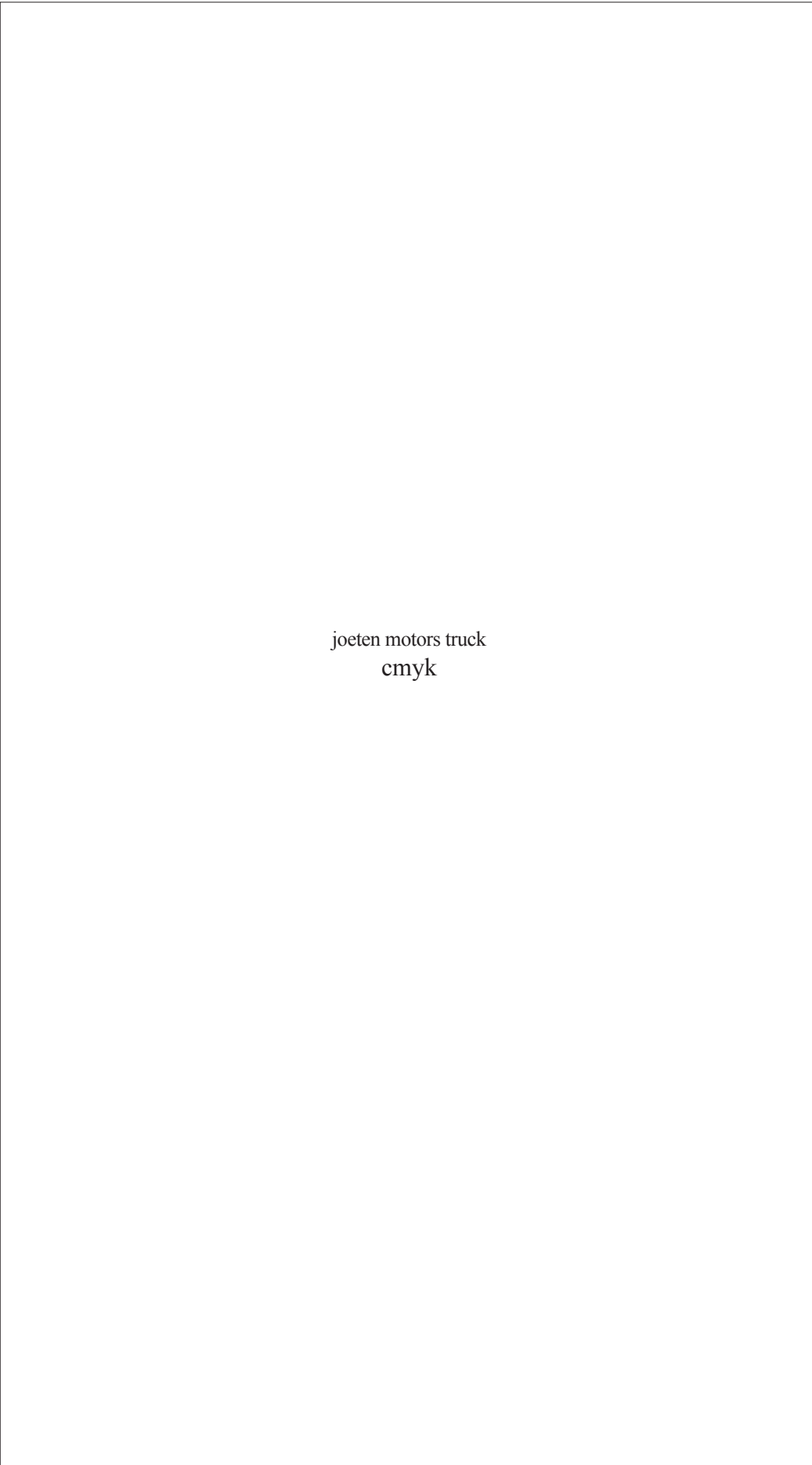


World



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Life & Style

High arts use pop culture to lure crowds

By CHARLES SHEEHAN
AP WRITER

Pearl Jam and The Boss at the ballet? Jerry Springer and Palm Pilots at the opera? Participants at the National Performing Arts Convention, the first of its kind, acknowledge that the high arts are changing, but they say barbs from some traditionalists that works are being dumbed down simply don't ring true.

On the contrary, directors of ballet, opera and dance companies say they're going after audiences that might never have considered Bach or Puccini as a Saturday night must.

From Ballet Boyz and "Jerry Springer—The Opera," to the still-developing Concert Companion—a program for personal digital assistants like the Palm Pilot that describes what's going on during classic musical scores—the high arts are working to demonstrate that there is nothing too scary at the performance hall.

"There are real and perceived barriers that have separated the high arts from other cultural activities," said Marc Scorca, president and chief executive officer of Opera America. "Those lines are blurring."

Over five days and through the weekend, associations representing various performing arts discussed, among other things, how to mesh modern influences



A 1978 photo of Bruce Springsteen with his Corvette by photographer Frank Stefanko, is part of an exhibit titled "Springsteen-Troubadour of the Highway" at the Newark Museum in Newark, N.J., displayed Friday, June 11, 2004. The exhibition runs from June 17 to Aug. 29, 2004.

with centuries-old culture.

A crucial shift occurred in the 1980s when opera companies began displaying scrolling translations of Italian- and German-language works above the stage.

Attendance at operas in the United States jumped by 46.6 percent from

1982 to 2002, Scorca said. The translations were one of the biggest reasons for the rebound, he said.

New interest also has been generated by American themes in opera, such as Arthur Miller's "A View From the Bridge," and the hybridization of opera

as well as ballet with modern acts.

Artistic directors are taking sometimes extraordinary risks to bring more people into the audience. The Texas Ballet Theater, for example, performed to the music of the Dixie Chicks.

"Did that open us up to criticism that

we were dumbing down ballet? I'll take the criticism," said David Mallette, executive director. "On the same program were two inarguable masterpieces by George Balanchine."

The Texas Ballet also has used swing and big band music that is every bit as sophisticated as Tchaikovsky and Stravinsky, Mallette said.

Music by Pearl Jam and Bruce Springsteen have been used during recent ballets in Pittsburgh.

"There are examples all over the country of how the classical arts have intersected with pop and everyone wants to recreate this as some marketing tool," Mallette said. "No one here sees that as a dilemma or says 'Oh my God, I'm doing this art form a disservice.'"

Technology above and beyond scrolling translations is also finding its way into the orchestra and opera halls. The Concert Companion, similar to audio tours in art galleries, has been tested at a handful of concert halls and has received rave reviews.

"This is really an embryonic attempt at providing that contextual element to those who are unfamiliar with the music without imposing on anyone else," said Jack McAuliffe, chief operating officer of the American Symphony Orchestra League, a service organization that represents about 2,000 orchestras.

Benefit art auction aims to unseat Bush

By SHARON THEIMER
AP WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Andy Warhol's pop creations, William Wegman's offbeat portraits and the abstract drawings of Willem de Kooning are more than works of art to some Democrats. The auction-block objects are a means to a desired goal—defeating President Bush and other Republicans on Nov. 2.

Artists, art galleries and wealthy collectors are contributing more than 170 works for an auction June 29 in New York to raise money for two pro-Democratic groups, America Coming Together and the political action committee ARTS PAC, that will use the cash for voter mobilization and other election-year efforts.

"Join artists and friends in saying 'Bye-Bye Bush' and help to elect Democratic candidates at the federal, state and local levels," an event flier says.

One artist behind the auction is Chuck Close, a New York-based photo-realist painter who sought the donated works. The sentiment among several artists, according to Close, is that the Bush administration's anti-terrorism efforts, epitomized by the Patriot Act, are endangering civil rights, including artistic freedom.

"The Republican Party seems to want to be perceived as having a lock on patriotism and I think it's really a mistake for Democrats to give up the

whole issue of patriotism. It's just a different notion of what it is," said Close, who expects some donations will carry patriotic themes. "I think a commitment to a free and open society is the ultimate patriot act."

America Coming Together and ARTS PAC will use some of the money for direct support of presidential and congressional candidates, and other money for get-out-the-vote drives and other campaign work. Close declined to provide the fund-raising goal for the event, but estimated it would bring in several million dollars.

Paintings, sculptures, photos, drawings and other works are scheduled for auction at the fund-raiser, including pieces by Warhol, de Kooning, Roy Lichtenstein, Richard Diebenkorn, Jasper Johns, Mark Rothko and Close. Wegman, known for photographs focused on canines, is donating his services as a portrait photographer to his winning bidder. Actress Meryl Streep is an honorary chairwoman of the event.

Politics and art have a history, especially in New York. Mexican painter Diego Rivera, a communist, angered industrial tycoon John D. Rockefeller's family in the early 1930s by including the image of Soviet revolutionary Vladimir Lenin in a mural the Rockefellers commissioned Rivera to paint at Rockefeller Center. After a standoff between Rivera and the Rockefellers, building workers destroyed the painting.

Reagan fit role of 'great communicator'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The world knew Ronald Reagan as the Great Communicator for his now-famous phrases on the world stage—from challenging the "evil empire" to asking his Soviet counterpart to "tear down this wall." But one of Reagan's great gifts was his ability to communicate on a much smaller scale, to connect with people he met on a personal level.

Those who knew him, including reporters who covered him regularly, found him always ready with a joke. Wit and down-home wisdom were his trademarks in almost any setting.

Reagan always brushed aside the Great Communicator label, saying "I

wasn't a great communicator, but I communicated great things."

One of the tragedies of his battle with Alzheimer's, which he lost June 5 at age 93, is that the disease ended his ability to tell stories and jokes. He spent his last decade almost completely sheltered from the public and hadn't recognized his own children in years.

Before his public disclosure that he was suffering from Alzheimer's, when he poignantly told America that he had begun the journey that would take him into the sunset of his life, Reagan loved to tell stories.

In his post-White House years, he

could enrapture a small crowd with the simple details of pruning oak trees, one of his favorite pastimes at his Santa Barbara County ranch.

"Well, that reminds me of a story," Reagan would say whenever he started a tale, making the room grow hushed.

In 1990, he told an Associated Press reporter about a brief trip to see the family's future home while he was still president.

Nancy Reagan spirited him away from the Century Plaza Hotel in Century City to see the Bel-Air house she had found for their post-White House years. With a twinkle in his blue eyes, he related how he rode the five miles crouched on the floor of a sedan.

"If I went any place, the press would have been in attendance, and we didn't want that publicity at the time," he said. "She said if I was willing to get down on the floor of the car and go there, the press wouldn't be following or any photographers or anything, so I did. I didn't get up until we were in the driveway."

Reagan often told jokes to set a room at ease. One he told repeatedly was about a businessman who ordered flowers for the opening of his new office.

The man was shocked when the flowers arrived with a card reading "Rest in peace." He complained to the florist, who told him: "Just remember that there's somebody today getting the message 'Congratulations on your new location.'"

He also didn't mind making fun of himself, particularly his age.



Former President Ronald Reagan, left, and former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev don cowboy hats while enjoying a moment May 2, 1992 on Reagan's Rancho del Cielo, north of Santa Barbara, Calif.

'Harry Potter' keeps box office top spot

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The boy wizard held off an interstellar fugitive, robotic wives and a talking cat to maintain his sway at movie theaters. "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" was the top movie for a second weekend, taking in \$35.1 million to lift its 10-day total to \$158.1 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

"Shrek 2" held up well in its fourth weekend, slipping from second to third place with \$24 million but pushing its domestic haul to \$354 million. That made it the top-grossing animated movie ever, passing the \$339.7 million gross of "Finding Nemo."

The sci-fi saga "The Chronicles of Riddick," with Vin Diesel returning as the escaped

killer turned anti-hero from 2000's "Pitch Black," debuted at No. 2 with \$24.6 million.

Nicole Kidman's "The Stepford Wives," a black comedy remake of the 1970s thriller about a town where men replace their mates with Barbie doll robots, opened in fourth place with \$22.2 million.

"Garfield: The Movie," featuring Bill Murray as mouthpiece for the comic strip fat cat, premiered at No. 5 with \$21.7 million.

Revenues for the third "Harry Potter" fell a steep 63 percent from the movie's \$93.7 million opening weekend gross. In contrast, "Shrek 2" grosses fell just 33 percent in its second weekend.

In 2002, revenues for "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Se-

crets" fell 52 percent in its second weekend, though that movie opened in November. "Prisoner of Azkaban" was the first "Harry Potter" movie to open in summer, when competition is stronger.

As more classes let out for summer, distributor Warner Bros. is counting on steady weekday business from youngsters to help sustain "Harry Potter," said Dan Fellman, the studio's head of distribution.

"We're in good shape, even though we took a pretty good drop this weekend," Fellman said.

The movie's 10-day total still is almost \$10 million ahead of "Chamber of Secrets," which took in \$148.4 million in that length of time.

Hollywood's big season con-

tinued, with revenues running 14 to 15 percent ahead of last summer, said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations. The top 12 movies grossed \$155.5 million, up 34 percent from the same weekend in 2003.

The new movies offered choices for all audiences, with "Chronicles of Riddick" playing to male action fans, "Stepford Wives" popular with women and "Garfield" grabbing the family crowd.

"This is what summer's all about. There's a variety of movies with pretty much every genre represented, and the audience found the movie they wanted," Dergarabedian said.

In limited release, the Sun-

dance Film Festival favorite "Napoleon Dynamite" opened strongly with \$117,148 in six theaters. The comedy features a cast of unknowns in a tale of high school geeks finding their place in the world. It expands gradually to more theaters through late July.

Next weekend brings Steven Spielberg's comedy "The Terminal," starring Tom Hanks as an Eastern European stuck at Kennedy airport after a coup in his homeland invalidates his passport; a new rendition of Jules Verne's "Around the World in 80 Days" with Jackie Chan; and Ben Stiller's sports farce "Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story." The highly anticipated "Spider-Man 2" opens June 30.

Estimated ticket sales for

Friday through Sunday at North American theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. Final figures will be released Monday.

1. **"Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban,"** \$35.1 million.
2. **"The Chronicles of Riddick,"** \$24.6 million.
3. **"Shrek 2,"** \$24 million.
4. **"The Stepford Wives,"** \$22.2 million.
5. **"Garfield: The Movie,"** \$21.7 million.
6. **"The Day After Tomorrow,"** \$14.55 million.
7. **"Raising Helen,"** \$3.8 million.
8. **"Troy,"** \$3.5 million.
9. **"Saved!"** \$2.55 million.
10. **"Mean Girls,"** \$1.5 million.

'Sex and the City' gets sanitized for TBS

By **DAVID BAUDER**
AP TELEVISION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—When Carrie asked Mr. Big if he'd like to come up to her apartment in the "Sex and the City" finale, his affirmative reply—which contained two extra unprintable syllables—was delivered with a wide grin. When the rerun appears soon on TBS, the excision will be clean and precise. "Absolutely," Big will say.

If you're a longtime "Sex and the City" fan, the cut may appear ruinous, robbing the show of the spunk that made it special—or not. But if you've never seen it before, you'd never notice.

Those little instances will pop up hundreds of times when the Emmy-winning HBO series begins its run on TBS Tuesday. It's a landmark moment in television, the first time a pay cable series has been sold in syndication to a basic cable station and must be sanitized to meet stricter language and content standards.

TBS is promoting "five nights of great sex," and will air two of the series' best episodes each evening through Saturday, starting at 10 p.m. EDT. The network will begin showing all 94 episodes this summer, in order from the first to the last.

It's been a busy stretch for TBS' editors.

In many cases, HBO did the work for them. All along, producers filmed alternate scenes and recorded alternate dialogue, with an eye toward a future syndication sale and because HBO needed a tamer version of the show for some international markets, said Carolyn Strauss, president of HBO original programming.

For instance, during a scene in which Samantha is seen on a swing with a lover, HBO filmed scenes where the swing is visible but not the entangled bodies.

The cast has even helped out in recent months by recording new dialogue to replace swear words, said Steve Koonin, TBS' chief



executive. One new TBS term is "sex buddy," to replace a more colorful, widely used phrase.

(And, yes, we recognize the irony of writing about words we can't print.)

Mere editing wouldn't always do. TV Guide, which compared some of the original episodes with the TBS versions, said most of Margaret Cho's dialogue was cut out during her guest appearance as a fashion designer.

TV Guide said it showed the TBS episodes to several fans of the show and someone who hadn't seen it before and "all agreed that there's still enough sizzle to keep them satisfied."

Yet critic David Bianculli of the New York Daily News wrote that something is clearly missing.

"The gist of each story line is there, but some of the edgiest observations and funniest jokes are gone, and Kim Cattrall's catty character, Samantha, has had her claws trimmed way back, if not removed entirely," Bianculli wrote.

The only people who can

enjoy "Sex" on TBS "are those who don't subscribe to HBO, don't buy or rent the unedited versions on DVD, and won't know any better when they see the diluted versions," he wrote.

Koonin thinks the criticism is not only unfair, but inaccurate. "The only thing I can say is watch," he said.

None of the stories, nothing of what made the show great, was fiddled with, he said.

"It's really easy for people to write about what's taken out of the show," he said. "People are going to like what's in the show, and that's the heart and soul of 'Sex and the City.' As the show got older, it was less about nudity than it was the trials and tribulations of women who were getting older."

The shock value in the series was that women were talking so bluntly about sex, not necessarily the words they were saying, Strauss said.

It's hard to know what the people of "Sex and the City" think about the new versions.

The show's executive producer, Michael Patrick King, wasn't giving interviews, HBO said.

The stars weren't available, although they've been helping TBS with some promotion.

"I've sort of studiously avoided engaging in that debate," Strauss said. "From the mass of people I've spoken to, people seem pleased by the results. Let the viewers decide."

For HBO, selling "Sex" to TBS is obviously a financial windfall. But the network also hopes it acts as a calling card, letting people who don't have HBO know about the quality of its series, she said.

There's also a potentially large untapped market. Most television viewers have seen, or at least had access to, "Friends" or "Seinfeld," but HBO subscribers are still in the minority. TBS estimates more than 60 million viewers haven't had access to "Sex and the City."

Koonin said he's been surprised that TBS research shows that there's more eagerness to see the reruns among people who are fans of the show, instead of newcomers. He's not sure whether that will change when it gets on the air.

TBS is using the series as the centerpiece for its branding campaign. The two general-interest Turner networks are trying to distinguish themselves stylistically—TBS as the home for comedy, and TNT as a destination for drama.

TBS is both preceding and following its nightly "Sex and the City" reruns with one of its few original series, "Outback Jack," about a "Crocodile Dundee"-style character.

Most of the network fare, though, is reruns of classic comedies. At a time the sitcom format is at a low ebb on the broadcast networks, that might be a shrewd strategy, assuming viewers don't get bored seeing the same old episodes.

Then again, who gets tired of "Sex"?

wallace

Subtle symptoms disguise heart attacks in women

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: A couple of months ago, I suffered a heart attack. It happened one morning while I was getting ready for work. I felt a lot of pressure in my chest and thought it was indigestion. I sat down for a few minutes, thinking it would pass—but then I broke out in a cold sweat and became very nauseated.

My husband took one look at me and insisted we go straight to the emergency room. When we arrived, they gave me some tests and told me I was having a heart attack. I couldn't believe it. Like many women, I thought heart attacks happened only to men.

I didn't know that women can have entirely different symptoms than men. My ignorance could have killed me.

Abby, please urge women over the age of 40 who have a relative who has suffered a heart attack at an early age, or women being medicated for high blood pressure or cholesterol, to talk to their doctors about their risk for heart attacks.

Recognizing the symptoms could save their lives.

LUCKY SURVIVOR IN DELAWARE

DEAR LUCKY: Thank you for the heads-up. According to the American Heart Association, coronary heart disease kills an estimated 250,000 women of all ages and ethnicities every year.

While some heart attacks are sudden and intense, like the kind portrayed in the movies where the person gasps, clutches his chest and falls to the ground, the symptoms in women are often far more subtle.

The May 2004 issue of the Mayo Clinic Health Letter had an eye-opening item on this subject. It related that a recent survey of more than 500 female heart attack sufferers had shown their warning signs were often not pain-related.

"More than 70 percent of those surveyed reported feeling unusual fatigue. Other ... symptoms included sleep disturbance, shortness of breath, indigestion and anxiety.

"The majority of the women reported they experienced these warning signs for more than one month before their heart attack, suggesting the symptoms were related to a heart problem.

"Less than 30 percent ... experienced chest discomfort before their heart attacks. Those who did described it as aching, tightness or pressure—not pain. In addition, only 57 percent reported chest discomfort during their actual heart attacks. They were more likely to experience shortness of breath, weakness and fatigue.

"The absence of chest pain may be a reason why some women don't recognize the symptoms of a heart attack or are misdiagnosed when they seek medical care."

For those who may not know it, heart disease is the No. 1 killer of women. That's why it is so important that women discuss heart disease with their doctors.

The American Heart Association has a risk-reduction program for women. To join, call 888-694-3278. Simple lifestyle changes can help us avoid having a heart attack. So make the call. It could save your life.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)



Dear Abby

Schwarzenegger mocks image in film cameo

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's five-minute cameo as an egocentric, polygamist prince in Disney's "Around the World in 80 Days" has fellow actors applauding his willingness to mock his Hollywood image.

"I think Schwarzenegger don't care in this movie, he make fun of himself," said Jackie Chan, the film's star and executive producer, on the red carpet before the film's premiere Sunday.

Schwarzenegger, who faced allegations during his gubernatorial campaign of having groped women, donned a wig and robes in his role as the indulgent Prince Hapi, who boasts a wife for each day of the week.

"I think it's a little ironic, but I think it has Arnold's sense of humor," said "Terminator 2: Judgment Day" co-star Robert Patrick, who attended the screening, Macy Gray, Rob Schneider and Kathy Bates, who appear in the film, also attended.

"I think he was a very good sport, to throw away his ego and accept to wear this stupid wig and funny bathrobe," said "Around the World" star Ce-



California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, left, is joined by wife Maria Shriver as they arrive for interment ceremonies for former President Ronald Reagan at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, Calif., Friday, June 11, 2004.

cile De France, whose character ends up in a hot tub with the governor in one scene.

Schwarzenegger, who filmed the part before the campaign, was

invited to the premiere, but his office earlier said he would not have a role publicizing the film, which opens nationally Wednesday.

"I think maybe he's got

Ailing Smith attends benefit

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP)—TV reality star Anna Nicole Smith—recovering from two broken ribs—considered canceling an appearance at an HIV/AIDS benefit for children but showed up after all.

Smith said she was "very much in pain" when she arrived in Lincoln. But, "I love children. I'm doing this for the kids."



Smith

of "Survivor," Hilarie Burton

The 36-year-old model appeared at the Rococo Theater for Saturday's fund-raiser with Jerri Manthey

of "One Tree Hill," and Lincoln native Jon Kelley, who appears on television's "Extra."

Smith suffered two broken ribs in a fall from a water craft while filming "The Anna Nicole Show."

During her visit, Smith also participated in three hours of "celebrity karaoke" at the Rococo Theater.

Illness keeps Combs out of 'Raisin' again

NEW YORK (AP)—Understudy Billy Eugene Jones stood in again Sunday for Sean Combs, the hip-hop mogul who stars in the hit Broadway revival of Lorraine Hansberry's "A Raisin in the Sun."

Combs left the production during intermission of the Saturday matinee because of a stomach ailment, said Bob Fennell, a spokesman for the play. Jones finished the performance and did

the Saturday evening show as well.

Jones, a recent graduate of the Yale School of Drama, has a small role in "Raisin" which also stars Phylicia Rashad and Audra McDonald.

The women recently won Tony Awards for their performances in the play about a working-class black family in



Combs

Chicago in the 1950s.

Combs, 34, hopes to return Tuesday to "Raisin," in which he portrays a frustrated limousine driver, Fennell said.

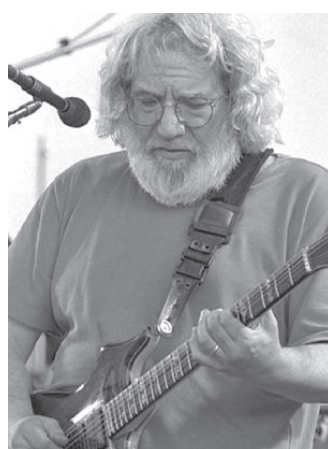
The production has been doing strong business at the Royale Theatre, where it has broken the house record several times since opening April 26. Its limited engagement ends July 11.

Jerry Garcia wine sells out in 30 days

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The late Grateful Dead guitarist Jerry Garcia was many things: musician, artist, writer, composer. Wine connoisseur wasn't really one of them, even though J. Garcia wine, released last year, sold out its first shipment of 22,000 cases in just 30 days, according to the Clos du Bois winery, which is producing it with the approval of Garcia's estate.

A second batch of wines, more than 30,000 cases of merlot, zinfandel and cabernet sauvignon, recently arrived in stores.

"Quite honestly, Jerry was not really a big drinker," said



Legendary leader of the Grateful Dead, Jerry Garcia, shown during a concert in Highgate, Vt., Thursday, June 15, 1995.

Grateful Dead biographer and longtime Garcia friend Dennis McNally. "But he did have his occasional glass of wine."

Garcia, who died of a heart attack in 1995, also had a somewhat tenuous relationship with Sonoma County, where the wine is produced.

"Sonoma County is where Jerry dropped out of high school," McNally said with a chuckle.

He surfaced fairly soon afterward in a jug band in Palo Alto that eventually changed its name, electrified its acoustic instruments and helped change popular music.

Louisiana chef sues Smokey Robinson

WHITECASTLE, La. (AP)—A Louisiana chef is suing Smokey Robinson for trademark infringement over a catchy slogan he says he has used for years to sell gumbo and other fare.

Johnny "Jambalaya" Percle, who sued the singer last week in federal court, said he had "Soul in Yo Bowl" trademarked in 1997 after using it for a decade.

Percle's complaint says that Robinson's use of the phrase, "The Soul is in the Bowl," for his line of Louisiana foods is so similar that it will confuse consumers.

"If he would have called it 'Smokey Robinson's Gumbo,' he wouldn't have heard boo from Johnny Jam," said Percle, a chef at Nottoway Plantation, about 25 miles south of Baton Rouge. "I truly believe by all legal rights, 'Soul in the Bowl' is mine, not his."

Robinson and his California-based SFGL Foods introduced "Smokey Robinson's Soul in the Bowl" line in January, featuring frozen Louisiana gumbo.

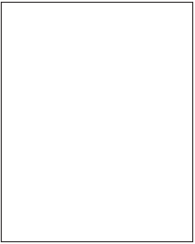
The products are on sale in some Chicago grocery stores, with distribution planned for California later this month. A national roll-out is planned by the end of the year, according to a company Web site.

Percle, who once catered a meal for Robinson in New Orleans, learned of the similar slogan from a friend who called to ask whether the chef and singer had joined forces.

Steve Sherman, a California lawyer for SFGL Foods, said he is aware of the lawsuit, "but I have not personally had an opportunity to review the complaint yet. It doesn't sound like something that has merit."

Pastimes

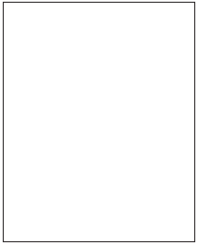




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